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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/631,153

07/31/2003

David P. Peckham

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EXAMINER

TRIEU, VAN THANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2636

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/631,153

Applicant(s)

PECKHAM ET AL

Examiner

Van T Trieu

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "at least a second actuator remotely from and coupled to the first actuator for providing an alternate location for temporarily interrupting the power supplied to each alarm unit" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement of drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 13, 15-18, 20-24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Kavasili** *et al* [US 4,141,007].

Regarding claim 13, the claimed at least two alarm units coupled to each other to form the alarm system (the smoke detectors SD are coupled to each other, see Figs. 1 and 22, col. 3, lines 30-33 and 51-57); and the switch remote from and coupled to each alarm unit, the switch for providing power to each alarm unit, the switch includes a first actuator for temporarily interrupting the power supplied to each alarm unit (is inherently met by the remote main power switch 28 in the relay box 12 is actuated to open the power switch 28 for temporarily disconnecting power output terminals C1 and C2 to the terminals T1-T5 of each of the smoke detectors SD for a short period of delaying time, see Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 51-57, col. 4, lines 16-66).

Regarding claim 15, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 13 above, the power switch 28, see Fig. 2.

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Regarding claim 16, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 13 above, the power switch 28, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 41-53.

Regarding claim 17, the claimed switch is coupled in parallel to each alarm unit (the power switch 28, see Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 18, the claimed temporarily interrupted for a predetermined length of time (the delay time for a predetermined of time 30 seconds to disable/disconnect the alarm, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 53-66 and col. 5, lines 48-54).

Regarding claim 20, the claimed coupling a power source to at least two alarm units of the alarm system (the new or emergency 110 volt power source is coupled to a plurality of smoke detectors SD, see Figs. 1 and 22, col. 3, lines 30-33 and 51-57); and the signaling an alarm condition throughout the alarm system (the alarm signal terminal T3, output signal C3, relay R1, output terminal C4, the series connection of terminals T4 and T5 in each of the smoke detector assemblies, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 35-53); and the temporarily interrupting the power source supplying power to the alarm system from a remote location thereby temporarily disable the alarm condition (is inherently met by the remote main power switch 28 in the relay box 12 is actuated to open the power switch 28 for temporarily disconnecting power output terminals C1 and C2 to the terminals T1-T5 of each of the smoke detectors SD for a short period of delaying time, see Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 51-57, col. 4, lines 16-66).

Regarding claim 21, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 15 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 22, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 15 and 21 above.

Regarding claim 23, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 15 and 21 above.

Regarding claim 24, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 18 and 23 above.

Regarding claim 26, the claimed step of restoring the power to the alarm system (after a 30 seconds delay the power is reset or restore to the alarm assemblies, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 58-66 and col. 5, lines 11-33).

Regarding claim 27, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claim 26 above, see Fig. 2.

Regarding claim 28, all the claimed subject matters are cited in respect to claims 17 and 20 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kavasilios et al** [US 4,141,007]

Regarding claim 14, **Kavasilios et al** fails to disclose the at least a second actuator remotely from and coupled to the first actuator for providing an alternate location for temporarily interrupting the power supplied to each alarm unit. However, **Kavasilios et al** teaches that the relay box 12 can also be connected to a fire alarm box 10 in which the circuits are normally closed and are actuated upon opening of a switch. This would merely involve connecting contacts R3-4 rather than R3-3, see Fig. 2, col. 5, lines 43-

47. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the switch of fire alarm box for actuating to open the circuit and disrupting or disconnecting electrical power as of the power switch 28 in the relay box, since both boxed are coupled to each other having switch for closing/opening circuits.

4. Claims 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kavaslios et al** [US 4,141,007] in view of **Subulak et al** [US 4,313,110]

Regarding claim 19, **Kavaslios et al** fails to disclose the capacitor value determine the predetermined length of time. However, **Kavaslios et al** teaches that the delay circuit uses relay contacts R3-1 to R3-4 for determining a predetermined length of time, see Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 58-66. **Subulack et al** suggests that a timing function circuit include a capacitor C1 for determining a delay length of time to deactivate the smoke alarm detector unit 15, see Figs. 1 and 2, col. 2, lines 49-68 and col. 3, lines 1-8. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the capacitor delay time of **Subulack et al** for the delaying time circuitry of **Kavaslios et al** since the charging capacitors are well known for charging and discharging of electrical energy for a predetermined length of time, which is very efficiency used for delaying powering of the alarm system.

Regarding claim 25, all the claimed subject matters are discussed between **Kavaslios et al** and **Subulak et al** in respect to claims 19 and 24 above.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 11 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Examiner is very regrettably to withdraw the Final Rejection based on the update search, wherein a new reference of **Kavasolios et al** is for making a rejection smoother as above.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (571) 272-2972. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. **Jeffery Hofsass** can be reached on (571) 272-2981.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van Trieu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Van Trieu
Primary Examiner
Date: 1/23/06